

**Golf Commission Meeting  
July 28, 2008  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tom Galla, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Sue Casey; Ron Dray; Don Espach; George Furkiotis; Tony Johnson; Jim Steidlmayer

**Members Absent:** Bruce Gerstman

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**Review and approval of the Minutes**

Review and approval of the Minutes of June 23, 2008... There was a motion made by Mr. Steidlmayer seconded by Mrs. Casey to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation**

- Mr. Al DeWalt of the Senior Men's Club reported that the club's Jr. Tournament went well and had 65 participants. He personally thanked Mr. Brown for supporting the event. The Sr. Men's Club has held the tournament for 11 years and Mr. Brown is the only professional over the years to support the event. Mr. DeWalt also stated that the newly installed automatic lightning system worked too well at the recent Sr. Men's Club Home/Away tournament. The participants were called in several times due to lightning that day.

**Director of Golf Course Property Report** (Hidalgo Nagashima)

Labor:

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties
- Superintendent
- Mechanic
- Three full-time greensmen
- Ten part-time greenskeepers
- Four summer seasonal

#### Maintenance Department Outline:

- Mr. Nagashima is very pleased with the current conditions on the Glen. The maintenance staff is being very aggressive with divots. There are a few rough spots on the course, but it is holding up well to traffic.
- The Knolls is also holding up well. The maintenance staff removed the trees and completed the brush work that was mentioned during the last Commission meeting. Edging work has begun on the bunkers and sprinkler heads in the fairways.
- Mr. Nagashima will be meeting with Mr. Brown and the Greens committee to discuss fall plans and preliminary winter projects.
- Mr. Nagashima is reviewing the 40 applications for the full-time greensman position. He will narrow the list down to six finalists and interview them next week.

#### Projects:

- The clubhouse and old cart barn are in the process Of being painted. A cherry picker is necessary to complete the work. All painting will be completed by the end of the summer.
- A stump grinder has been lined up to grind the stumps next week.
- DaVinci Development is scheduled for August 11 to pave the cart paths and islands in the parking lot. Mr. Galla asked if there was any money left in the budget for the project to add some curbing to several areas. Mr. Nagashima reported that there is not enough money left to do any kind of serious curbing and that some of the areas that were not curbed were done so due to drainage issues.
- Purchase Orders were issued for all budgeted maintenance equipment and delivery should take place within the next two weeks.

#### **Golf Pro/Director of Golf Report (Bobby Brown)**

Before Mr. Brown began his report. Mr. Galla stated that hopefully by the September Commission meeting, Mr. Brown would officially be named as the new General Manager. Mr. Galla said the structure of the Commission meetings would be changing to allow for the new position.

#### Overview:

- Mr. Brown reported that he has been meeting with various personnel to get himself up-to-date on the status of all areas. Mr. Brown stated, "Proper planning prevents poor performance."

#### Operations:

- Rainy days have plagued play for the month of June.
- July tournaments consisted of the Girl Scouts with 57 players and the Brian Tvardzik Memorial with 112 players. The only tournament scheduled for August is the Don Miklus Memorial. The open Mondays are being promoted heavily on-line and at the course.
- The Monday junior golf has averaged 30 players each week.

- Mr. Janik, PGA Professional, established the Tashua Jr. Golf Club aimed at juniors ages 12 – 17. They play 9 holes on the Knolls on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM and Saturdays at 3:30 PM. Juniors pay the greens fees plus a \$5.00 entry fee. The Club will host the Junior Club Championship. It is hoped this program will become more popular in the future.
- The J. Borck Foundation has requested Tashua Knolls host the 40<sup>th</sup> Borck Jr. Tournament on July 20, 2009. The event consists of 100 junior golfers qualifying for match play on Monday morning with the course opening for public play at noon. The match play would be on Tuesday and Wednesday with limited spots. Greens fees would be donated. Tashua Knolls has hosted this tournament on three previous occasions in 1978, 1987 and 1997.

Mr. Evans made a motion; seconded by Mr. Espach to approve the J. Borck Foundation's request to host the 40<sup>th</sup> Bork Jr. Tournament on July 20, 2009 with match play continuing on July 21 and 22. Greens fees would be waived. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Plant and Facility:

- The A/C unit that serves the common hallway, Grille Room, and Concessionaire's office in the clubhouse broke. Mr. Ray Lupkus, town engineer, inspected the unit and determined the age of the unit dictated the best course of action would be to replace it. Mr. Lupkus obtained quotes from three vendors. Added Comfort was selected as lowest bidder and the unit was replaced on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost to replace the unit was \$3,375 and was paid out of the maintenance account.
- A sprinkler pipe leak was detected in the basement on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Fairfield County Sprinkler responded and replaced the corroded pipe and suggested that the entire sprinkler system should be flushed out. Mr. Galla requested Mr. Brown to check with the town attorney to determine if the work was a maintenance issue and therefore handled by Gralor, Inc.
- The Sr. Men's club reported that a plaque in the hallway was missing sometime in mid-June. After contacting various club members, no one appears to know what happened to the plaque. The possibility exists that the plaque was stolen. Mr. Brown has contacted each organization to request that holes be drilled in each plaque to attach them more permanently to the walls. Each club has agreed and the plaques will be secured within 10 days. Mr. Galla held a discussion regarding helping the Sr. Men's Club with the cost of replacing the plaque.

Mr. Evans made a motion; seconded by Mrs. Casey to approve the Golf Commission reimburse the Sr. Men's Club half of the amount of a replacement plaque. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Food and Beverage:

- Mr. Brown and Mr. Faustini, Concessionaire, have had several positive meetings this month and look forward to working together.

### **Greens Committee (Owen Evans)**

- The protective strip at the top of the stairs in the clubhouse will be replaced.
- A new “Reserved” sign in the parking lot will be added for Mr. Scott Targowski, PGA Professional, and the other reserved signs will be re-aligned due to the parking lot painting and paving.
- A new gate and several rocks will be added next to the 14<sup>th</sup> green to dissuade snowmobiles in the winter months.
- New signs will be added to prevent cars from pulling up to the back of the clubhouse.
- Mr. Brown will speak with Mr. Faustini to re-align storage of the restaurant equipment to no more than the agreed-upon 50% to allow the new maintenance equipment to be stored there.
- Mr. Evans noted that the shelters on the Knolls were beginning to show signs of rot and will have to be considered for replacement or repair.

Mr. Evans left at 8:10 PM due to an emergency.

### **House Committee (Tony Johnson)**

- Mr. Johnson spoke about the painting taking place at the clubhouse. Mr. Brown complimented Mr. Mike Valuzzo on his addition to the maintenance staff this year and the tremendous asset he has become at fixing things around the course.

### **Executive (Tom Galla)**

- Part of the Executive Committee met with Mr. Dan Schopick (town attorney), Mr. Brown, and Mr. Brown’s attorney to discuss the General Manager contract. The matter will be discussed further in Executive Session.

### **Finance (Don Espach)**

- Mr. Espach reported that at this point final budget numbers for last year indicate the course may have a surplus of approximately \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2008. When final numbers come in, it may be necessary for some belt tightening for next year.

### **Correspondence**

- None

### **New Business**

- None

## **Old Business**

- Mr. Galla discussed this year's experiment allowing select fivesomes to go out on a limited basis with the approval of Mr. Brown. The perception around the course was negative and the program will be discontinued during peak season. Fivesomes may still be allowed during off season slow times at the discretion of the General Manager and Head Professional.
- Mr. Galla also discussed the upcoming Don Miklus Memorial Golf tournament on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Galla re-iterated to the Commissioners how important Mr. Miklus was to Tashua Knolls and how committed Tashua has been to junior golf. He asked that Commissioners consider helping out with this tournament if possible.

## **Executive Session**

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss on-going negotiations was made at 8:20 PM by Mr. Furkiotis seconded by Mr. Espach. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 PM was made by Mr. Espach; seconded by Mr. Gerstman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM was made by Mrs. Casey; seconded by Mr. Furkiotis. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau  
Golf Commission Clerk